

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
51st meeting
held on
Thursday, 20 December 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 51st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 126: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

- (a) COMPOSITION OF THE SECRETARIAT (continued)
- (b) RESPECT FOR THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS (continued)
- (c) OTHER PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

The contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

Revised estimates: recosting of decisions of the Fifth Committee concerning statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates

AGENDA ITEM 117: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/45/SR.51,
3 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.50 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 126: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

- (a) COMPOSITION OF THE SECRETARIAT (continued) (A/C.5/45/L.23)
- (b) RESPECT FOR THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS (continued) (A/C.5/45/L.24)
- (c) OTHER PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

Draft resolutions and draft decision contained in documents A/C.5/45/L.23 and L.24

1. The CHAIRMAN introduced the draft resolutions and the draft decision contained in documents A/C.5/45/L.23 and L.24, which were the results of long and careful negotiations among a very broad cross-section of the Fifth Committee's membership.

2. The draft resolutions and the draft decision contained in document A/C.5/45/L.23 were adopted without objection.

3. Draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.24 was adopted without objection.

4. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of position, said that his delegation, which had joined in the consensus adoption of the draft resolutions contained in document A/C.5/45/L.23, wished to reaffirm that the provisions of the Charter were authoritative and not subject to qualification by any resolution or decision of the General Assembly.

5. It also welcomed draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.24 and would continue to respect the privileges and uphold the immunities of officials of the United Nations. With respect to paragraph 13 of that resolution, it was in contact with the Secretariat concerning issues arising from the non-payment of local property taxes by staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in London and looked forward to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion of that issue in accordance with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

The contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/45/73)

6. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the total additional requirements to be financed from the balance of the contingency fund for the biennium 1990-1991 amounted to \$9,901,800. Since that amount was within the available balance of \$13,120,500, the Secretary-General was proposing that the Fifth Committee should recommend an appropriation of \$9,901,800. On the basis of the procedures for the use of the contingency fund approved by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211, the

(Mr. Mselle)

Advisory Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal. It therefore recommended that the Fifth Committee recommend an appropriation of \$9,901,800 under the sections indicated in paragraph 3 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/45/73).

7. The Advisory Committee wished to point out that, while it had thus far been possible to accommodate the additional requirements explained in the Secretary-General's various statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates within the contingency fund, it might not always be possible to do so in the future. It therefore stressed the need for full compliance with the agreed procedures for the preparation of such statements, and particularly for the indication of alternative courses of action in case the contingency fund could not accommodate the expenditure in question.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished, in accordance with section C, paragraph 5, of the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/211, to recommend that the Assembly approve additional appropriations in the amount of \$9,901,800 under the relevant sections of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, as indicated in the table in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/45/73, and to inform the Assembly that a balance in the amount of \$3,218,700 would remain in the contingency fund.

9. It was so decided.

Revised estimates: recosting of decisions of the Fifth Committee concerning statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/45/74)

10. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that, in its recosting of decisions of the Fifth Committee, the Secretariat had used the revised exchange rates recommended by the Advisory Committee in document A/45/7/Add.14. That being the case, the Advisory Committee had no objection to the recosted amounts of \$2,802,900 under expenditure sections and \$99,800 under income section 1.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to approve, without a vote, an increase in the amount of \$2,802,900 under expenditure sections and \$99,800 under income section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, as indicated in the table in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/45/74).

12. It was so decided.

13. Mr. INOMATA (Japan), speaking in explanation of position, expressed regret that no substantive discussion had been possible on the item under consideration because the documentation had been submitted just as the Fifth Committee was preparing to conclude its work. The amounts concerned were enormous compared with those discussed in other contexts and therefore had tremendous importance for the financial provisions of Member States. He hoped that rates of exchange and

(Mr. Inomata, Japan)

projected rates of inflation would benefit from substantial discussion in the future. The Secretariat should understand the need for a more transparent recosting methodology, an improvement in the presentation of performance reports and more time to ponder the exercise in detail.

14. Mr. MORDACQ (France) endorsed the technical concerns expressed by the representative of Japan. He was very surprised that so little time had been spent on subjects of such great financial importance. He was also surprised by the change in the method of calculating exchange rates, which did not appear to be technically justified.

15. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the frustration of some delegations was fully understandable. The recosting did not pertain to the entire budget, but only to the decisions which the Fifth Committee had taken. The figure of \$2,802,900 seemed large in that context. However, that amount did not appear so high when compared with the amount of slightly more than \$400 million corresponding to inflation and currency fluctuations in the budget outline or the amount of approximately \$173 million referred to in the first performance report.

AGENDA ITEM 117: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/C.5/45/L.20 and L.26)

Draft resolutions contained in document A/C.5/45/L.20

16. Ms. MUSTONEN (Finland), Vice-Chairman, introduced the draft resolutions and recommended them to the Committee for adoption without a vote.

17. The draft resolutions contained in document A/C.5/45/L.20 were adopted without objection.

18. Mr. LOPEZ (Venezuela), speaking in explanation of position, said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolutions just adopted on the understanding that the Secretary-General would report under draft resolution A, paragraph 17, in the context of his report on the work of the Organization, his introduction to the proposed programme budget, and the agenda item on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the Organization, considered in the plenary meeting.

19. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba) supported the statement by the Venezuelan representative. As reaffirmed in many resolutions, reform was an ongoing process which, in future, need not be based solely on resolution 41/213.

20. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that, on the contrary, it was his delegation's understanding that the words "to report accordingly", in draft resolution A, paragraph 17, called for a separate report by the Secretary-General and a separate agenda item on the improvement of the efficiency of the Organization.

21. Mr. CLAVIJO (Colombia), supported by Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom), said that his delegation had joined the consensus because the Committee had been pressured for time in its consideration of an item that was of paramount importance to the Organization. It was to be hoped that, in future, especially at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, sufficient time would be allowed for in-depth consideration of the relevant documents.

Draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.26

22. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba) introduced the draft resolution, on which informal consultations had been held the day before. As agreed in the informal consultations, the draft resolution was concise and technical in nature. In paragraph 4, the figure in parentheses was given as an indication to Member States of the amount which they might be requested to pay in the biennium 1992-1993. He recommended the draft resolution to the Committee for adoption without a vote.

23. Draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.26 was adopted without objection.

24. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of draft resolutions A/C.5/45/L.20 and L.26. The United Kingdom attached importance to the continuing validity of the provisions of resolution 41/213, including a new budget process. In the informal consultations, his delegation had indicated that the Fifth Committee should proceed systematically on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. The distribution of resources between sections of the regular budget was best illustrated by the summary table in the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/369), which was self-explanatory. The question of total resources for economic and social development had broader ramifications.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.